

CONCORDIA



March 15 to 17

Stingers

Basketball trivia

- The Concordia Stingers have made eight straight trips to the Final Eight championships in Halifax (1988-'89 through 1995-'96).

- The Concordia Stingers have been to the national tournament 13 times in the 21 years since the university's inception.

- The Stingers won the national championship in 1990. Concordia defeated St. Francis Xavier 78-71 in the first round, downed Acadia 78-75 in the semifinal and beat Guelph 80-62 in the championship game.

- At least one Concordia player has been named to the All-Canadian teams every year since 1990-91. Will there be a sixth in row?

- Concordia's John Dore was the co-winner of the Stuart W. Aberdeen Memorial Trophy as the CIAU men's basketball coach of the year in 1990-'91.

- *At the start of the year the Stingers were asked to fill in an unusual survey, listing their top 5 favorite professional teams, Canadians they respect and so on. So without further fanfare, here's the results of the first ever Concordia Stingers men's basketball team survey.*

The favorite professional sports team is (suprisingly) the Montreal Expos, who were listed by seven of 12 players. Next, the Montreal Canadiens (6), the San Francisco 49ers (3), the Chicago Bulls (3), the Boston Celtics (2) and the Vancouver Canucks (2).

David Letterman and Michael Jordan were listed most frequently as the people the players would most like to meet. Others who were mentioned include: Bobby Knight, Socrates, Eric Clapton, Emmitt Smith, Rick Hansen, Jim McMahon, Deion Sanders, Larry Bird and Dennis Rodman.

Every player listed a family member (usually Mom) as the Canadian citizen they most respect. Terry Fox was mentioned twice. But after that there was no consensus at all. Rick Hansen and Stompin' Tom Connors were two of the most interesting people noted.

In the favorite cartoon character category, it was a three horse race with Homer Simpson edging out Bart Simpson and Wolverine.

#4 J.P. Reimer
Stinger forward
6'6", 220 pounds
4th year History Student
Hometown: Laval, Que



This first team QSSF all-star brings a lot of emotion and character to the Stingers, and of course, he is a character. He enjoys a good practical joke and he loves to laugh. He's one of the big slammers in the Stingers' high-energy warmup.

J.P. likes to play guitar and harmonica. He likes rock and blues. On a road trip to Hamilton early in the season, J.P. brought his guitar and had the team singing. He loves the Bird Dance and often rallies the Stingers for a few rousing choruses of it. However, he insists on calling it the Chicken Dance.

J.P. is involved in a lot of community work. He tutors students at the local YMCA. He tutors all high school subjects, especially history and French. Last summer, he worked at the Sun Youth day camp. He hopes to have the same summer job this year.

J.P. is thrilled to have his family with him in Halifax, especially his sister Daegan, who made the trip from Montreal despite being six months pregnant. If he sinks a foul shot or two, watch for him to look to the stands for his dad, Concordia professor Bill Reimer, who has been encouraging him to work on his foul shot. He says each one he sinks is for his dad.



#10 Maxime Bouchard
Stinger forward
6'7", 206 pounds
3rd year Leisure Studies Student
Hometown: Montreal

The accolades and awards keep rolling in for Maxime. Max has now been an all-star all three of his seasons with the Stingers. He is also the QSSF's MVP this season. At the nationals last March, he was named to the Final Eight all-star squad, along with teammate J.P. Reimer.

Max learned a lot about basketball from his older sister, Isabelle. She was an exceptional player who was with the Quebec provincial team for three or four years. She is now pursuing a career as a police officer. Max has expressed no interest in police work, however. He has his heart set on a career in professional basketball in Europe.

Max was entertaining offers from some American universities three years ago when his mother Micheline was diagnosed with cancer. He chose Concordia so he could be near her. Since then she has recovered from her battle with cancer.

#32 Daniel Furlong
Stinger forward/guard
6'3", 205 pounds
3rd year Sociology Student
Hometown: Pierrefonds, Que.



Dan is pretty tough. He plays rugby for the Montreal Barbarians Football Club, the provincial team and is long-listed for the national under-23 team. He was the Barbs' MVP for the 1994-'95 season. Dan also likes to lift weights and cycle.

Last summer Dan worked at the Sunny Acres Day Camp. He really enjoys working with kids and hopes to one day make a career working with children. He would also like to own and operate a gym.

Dan names his mother, Micheline Archambault, and Dawson College coach Olga Hrycak as the most influential people on his basketball career.



#33 Gaetan Prosper
Stinger forward
6'3", 201 pounds
4th year Economics Student
Hometown: Montreal
Nickname: Gates

When it comes to Gaetan Prosper, everyone is talking these days about his accomplishments in the classroom. He is an Academic All-Canadian. This is even more impressive when you consider he is attending an English university and French is his first language. Gates was born in Haiti, he moved to Boston when he was 13 years old and then his family settled in Montreal a year later. His younger brother Jay joined him on the Stingers this season. They have been dubbed the Haitian Sensations. Both possess amazing athletic ability and constantly amaze the Concordia crowds with their amazing plays and dunks.

Gates was named to the QSSF second all-star team. He is one of the Stingers' captains.

Gates likes music and used to put together the team's warmup tapes, but he has passed on that responsibility to Jay.

#25 Jay Prosper
Stinger forward
6'4", 190 pounds
1st year Sociology Student
Hometown: Montreal



Jay Prosper joins his older brother Gaetan at Concordia where the duo has been dubbed the Haitian sensation by their teammates. There's no doubt these two brothers know the value of showmanship. With their superb athletic ability and flare for dramatic dunks they have quickly become fan favorites. Jay, who has been called charming, stylish (the hair has to be just right) and quick-witted, is just as at home signing autographs after the game as he is on the court.

Jay is now in charge of the team's warmup tape. *Wicked* by Ice Cube used to be the dunking song, but lately the team likes to slam while listening to AC/DC's *Thunderstruck*.

Jay comes out of Montreal's strong Dawson College program, where he was a second team all-star last year. His career objective is to become a firefighter.



#12 Ezra Franklyn
Stinger forward
6'6", 195 pounds
2nd year Science Human Affairs Student
Hometown: Dollard des Ormeaux, Que.
Nickname: The Milkman

The nickname is just begging for an explanation, isn't it? Well, here goes. During a game Ezra ran into an opponent who was knocked down in the collision. Instead of calling him a whimp, Ezra turned to him and said, "Why don't you drink some milk." And ever since Ezra has been called The Milkman. Ezra is also a bit of a health fanatic. He's always telling teammates they should drink milk or juice. He is also frequently tells his fellow Stingers to dress warm, wear scarves and not to catch colds. If you happen to be out on Halifax and see a 6-foot-6 kid in a Concordia jacket, tuque, neck warmer, gloves, etc., say hi to Ezra. Oh and he'll be wearing sun glasses too, even if it's dark.

During the summer, Ezra worked in a bookstore. His career objective is to be a cameraman for a major television station.

#30 Justin Padvaiskas

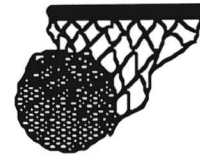
Stinger guard

6', 170 pounds

4th year Geography Student

Hometown: Richmond, B.C.

Nickname: Joe



Justin Padvaiskas is another one of the quieter players, although the Stingers are working on him. They desperately wanted to give him a nickname but couldn't come up with one, so they asked him what he wanted to be called. He said, "Joe."

He came to Concordia after playing and using up three years of eligibility at Douglas College in his native British Columbia. Upon his arrival in Montreal at the start of the 1994-'95 season, he immediately secured a starting spot on coach John Dore's Stingers. He was the rookie of the year on the men's basketball team last season. He participated in the national college championships the last two years with Douglas College, but is still in hot pursuit of his first national championship. In his free time, he likes to mountain bike.



#20 Cory Peddie

Stinger guard

6'3", 195 pounds

1st year Anthropology Student

Hometown: Howick, Quebec

Cory Peddie doesn't really have a nickname, but he is often called "Mr. Silence" by his teammates. He's so quiet that on one road trip his teammates told him he had to say something every 30 minutes. Cory's father is a dairy farmer, so Cory is consulted everytime the team gets into conversations on livestock and there have been a few such occasions. The Art of Cow Tipping and Mules were discussed by the team at some point in the season.

Cory who was a guard and forward at Dawson College in Montreal from 1992-'95 has earned his teammates' admiration for never missing a shot in practice.

As a summer job, Cory worked at Park Safari, which is a park where people drive their cars through trails and view wild animals in their natural setting. It is also an amusement park.

#14 Constantine Gymnopoulos

Stinger guard

6'2", 200 pounds

1st year Political Science Student

Hometown: Toronto

Nickname: Gus



Gus is a very accomplished high school athlete. At Victoria Park Secondary School in Toronto he was named Athlete of the Year last spring. He was named MVP of his basketball team in each of his last three years and he was also a three-time football team MVP. He was a quarterback with the football team.

Gus has been compared to Cliff Claven of the television show *Cheers* on many many occasions. "He knows everything about everything," says one teammate. He's always bringing up something unusual like the Mayans. Gus is known as the dance music king. He is always quick to represent Toronto or bring up Leafs.



#15 Johnny Yotis

Stinger guard

6', 180 pounds

2nd year History Student

Hometown: Town of Mount Royal, Que.

Nickname: Preacher

If you want to see an emotional player, keep your eyes on Johnny Yotis. Watching him on the bench is almost as good a show as the game on the court. He has a 100 expressions and gestures. "He's the loudest player on the team and the most emotional," said one teammate. "Thank God he's on our side."

Johnny is very superstitious. Before each game, he says a prayer on the way out of the locker room and then he has to be the last one out. He also has a whole routine where he has to hit each players hand, all in a certain way.

Johnny's girlfriend is also a basketball player. Jennifer Smith is an aggressive guard with the Concordia Stingers women's basketball team.

#22 Fred Arsenault

Stinger centre

6'9", 200 pounds

5th year Economics Student

Hometown: Mascouche, Que.



Fred Arsenault was named to the Canadian men's student basketball team last summer. He was the first ever Quebec representative on the Canadian team, which competed at the World University Games in Fukuoka, Japan last August.

Fred is a quiet, serious player. He says he does his talking on the court. He brings with him calm and reason. He's consistent. While many of the Stingers are superstitious, Fred is not. In his spare time, he likes reading and movies. His favorite film is *The Big Blue*. The past few summers, he has worked for moving companies and at a summer camp. He'd like to play basketball in Europe one day.



#35 Eric Bouris

Stinger centre

6'8", 260 pounds

1st year Leisure Studies Student

Hometown: Nepean, Ont.

Eric is a multi-talented athlete who has excelled at many sports over the years, including football, rugby, skiing and track and field. The centre/tight end eventually put all his time into basketball and football. And when it came to playing at the university level, he chose basketball at Concordia because he wanted "to learn under coach Dore."

Eric has two nicknames. His teammates call him the Gentle Giant. One teammate explained it this way, "He only hurts people by accident. He would never hurt anyone on purpose." His friends in Concordia residence call him Big Country.

During the summer, Eric supervises and serves as a lifeguard for pools back home in Ottawa.